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6/19/08

Docket No. 4502-1096
Appln. No. 10/573,405

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly for an amphibious vehicle, comprising:

an adapter fitting that is fastenable to a bow of the vehicle;

a leg that is pivotally connected to the fitting; and

a linear actuator that is pivotally connected both to the fitting and to the leg, the linear actuator having a cylinder and an extendable rod, the cylinder being pivotally connected to the fitting at or adjacent a rod end of the cylinder, the actuator being configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from a retracted position to an extended position,

wherein the actuator is movable about its pivotal connection in a manner ensuring that a force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during a greater portion of the arc of travel, and

the retractable leg assembly is a nose leg assembly located outside a hull of the amphibious vehicle without moving through an overall streamline or watertight skin of the hull.

2. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein an arrangement of the leg and the actuator is adapted to move the leg through the arc of travel from the retracted position to the extended position, and during the travel the actuator moves about its pivotal connection to the fitting in a manner to ensure that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during a portion of the arc of travel.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arc of travel is sufficient to allow a greater part of the leg to be raised above a water line of the vehicle.

5. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator is configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from the retracted to the extended positions that is equal to or greater than one hundred and twenty degrees.

6. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes

a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.

7. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a steering actuator means which is adapted to control the orientation of the wheel relative to the retractable leg assembly.

8. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adapter fitting includes a down stop adapted to limit the travel of the leg at the extended position.

9. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the leg assembly is adapted to position the wheel, when in the retracted position, in such a manner that the wheel can be used as a bumper or fender.

10. (previously presented) An amphibious vehicle incorporating at least one retractable leg assembly substantially as claimed in claim 1.

11. (previously presented) An amphibious vehicle as claimed in claim 10, wherein the path of travel of the leg from

the retracted position to the extended position is external from a substantially water-tight structure of the amphibious vehicle.

12. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.

13. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[3]] 1, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.

14. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a steering actuator means which is adapted to control the orientation of the ground engagement means or wheel relative to the retractable leg assembly.

15. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a steering actuator means which is adapted to control the orientation of the ground engagement means relative to the retractable leg assembly.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly for an amphibious vehicle, comprising:

an adapter fitting that is fastenable to a bow of the vehicle;

a leg that is pivotally connected to the fitting; and

a linear actuator that is pivotally connected both to the fitting and to the leg, the linear actuator having a cylinder and an extendable rod, the cylinder being pivotally connected to the fitting at or adjacent a rod end of the cylinder, the actuator being configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from a retracted position to an extended position,

wherein the actuator is configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from the retracted to the extended positions that is equal to or greater than one hundred and twenty degrees,

wherein the retractable leg assembly is a nose leg assembly located outside a hull of the amphibious vehicle without moving through an overall streamline or watertight skin of the hull.

18. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein an arrangement of the leg and the actuator is adapted to move the leg through the arc of travel from

the retracted position to the extended position, and during the travel the actuator moves about its pivotal connection to the fitting in a manner to ensure that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during a portion of the arc of travel.

19. (previously presented w) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the is movable about its pivotal connection in a manner ensuring that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during the greater portion of the arc of travel.

20. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the arc of travel is sufficient to allow a greater part of the leg to be raised above a water line of the vehicle.

21. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.